

BOOK NOTICES

Unbidden House Guests. By Hugo Hartnaek. Published by Hartnaek Publishing Company, Tacoma, Washington. 1943. $9\frac{1}{4} \times 6$ inches, i-iv, 5-15 p.; Part I, 16-226 p.; Part II, 1-62 p.; Part III, 1-112 p.; Part V, 1-142 p.; Index, i-xviii. Illustrated. \$12.20 postpaid.

This volume of 560 pages is a comprehensive account of the types of house pests that frequently come to the attention of entomologists and that are just as frequently turned over to other specialists because many are either on the border line of entomology or are in non-entomological fields. For this reason Doctor Hartnaek's present book, which supplements his former volume entitled "202 Common Household Pests" (1939) should be of unusual interest to entomologists who deal with urban populations and their pest troubles.

Part I is a discussion embracing the entire field of house pests, entomological and otherwise, interspersed with bits of history and folklore. Some of the accounts included therein deal with the relation of such pests to stored foodstuffs; to drinking water, to house climate, including ventilation, temperature and humidity; to city climate; and to "spoorology" or the traces left by pests on textiles, furniture, foods, walls, floors, man, animals, etc., whereby the trouble may be diagnosed. Doctor Hartnaek writes at length on this latter subject and cites many interesting examples. Part I also includes a discourse on pest fighting from the primitive method of burning the house to the use of vermin-proof construction and modern fumigants. And in addition consideration is given to house pests and wastes, to common names of such pests, to the requirements of a good exterminator, to professional lingo, to Herman Landois who laid the scientific groundwork for our present knowledge of many house pests, and last but not least, to the author's interesting European background. This brief summary of Part I is not by any means exhaustive. Other related topics are included, along with Doctor

Hartnack's criticisms and opinions of official and unofficial agencies.

Part II deals with plants as house pests, such as bacteria, yeasts, molds, fungi, mosses, pollen, etc., to which our food, possessions and persons are subject. Many of these are just as destructive as insects but receive less consideration from the publicists. The work of various species is described and methods of control are recommended.

Part III covers the lower animals from one cell organisms through the flatworms, roundworms, earthworms, snails, slugs, millepedes, centipedes, insects, spiders, scorpions, to the mites and ticks all in their relation to the house and its inmates. As before, brief diagnostic characters are given plus descriptions of damage and methods of treatment.

Part V considers such animals as frogs, salamanders, reptiles, birds, mammals, all in their relation to man, either as friends, or foes, and their treatment, as such, follows the author's plan in Parts II and III.

Although there are many textual references to American and European literature, there is no formal bibliography. This will be disappointing to some workers, but such a bibliography, embracing hundreds of titles, would have added materially to the cost of production.

Doctor Hartnack's coverage and treatment of the entire subject of house pests is the most interesting and complete one that has ever appeared between two covers in this country.

Like his former book, the present one is highly individualistic. It does not follow the pattern to which entomological books in this country usually conform and Doctor Hartnack's opinions of the shortcomings of certain institutions and agencies may be thought by some, not to belong in a book of this kind. Nevertheless, it is full of interest and information, even to those who are not particularly concerned with house pests. It is profusely and well illustrated from incunabula and modern works, and by enlivening sketches. In this book will be found an entire philosophy of house pests, embracing principles and their practical application.

In this country household insects are slowly receiving an in-

creasing and more detailed amount of attention by entomologists and I believe that it is only a question of time until there is built up about them, a great body of information comparable to what we now have about some agricultural pests.

In view of the fact that over 50 per cent of the country's population is now urban, Doctor Hartnack's book should serve not only as a valuable source of information, but as a stimulating foundation for more intensive studies of house pests and the conditions favoring their multiplication.—Harry B. Weiss.

Dune Boy, The Early Years of a Naturalist. By Edwin Way Teale. Illustrated by Edward Shenton. Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, 1943. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ inches, x + 255 p. \$3.00.

This latest book by Mr. Teale, whose previous, notable books on natural history won for him the John Burroughs Medal, is about three persons, the author as a boy, and his grandfather and grandmother Way. The setting is his grandparents' farm, Lone Oak, in Indiana close to the shore of Lake Michigan. Here he spent his summers and vacation days, from four to fifteen years of age, with the guidance and companionship of two understanding people, who unknowingly helped to shape his destiny. Here, over the years, he became saturated with Indiana sunshine, with the odors of the orchards and fields and with all the fascinating things about a farm and the surrounding countryside that appeal to a boy, with an exploring mind, and freed of restraint. Here, he played Indian, cured mouse pelts, raised pigs, hunted snakes, became an aviator and built a glider, whose flight ended in disaster. Here he established the Way-Teale Museum of natural history in the wagonshed with its collections of animals' skulls, arrowheads, bark, wood, acorns, birds' nests, wasp nests, roots, stones, and other objects. Here he worked on the farm, drove to market, read to his heart's content, acquired a camera, then a second hand typewriter, and became an author, all before the age of sixteen and all with boyish failures and successes. During these exciting and adventuresome years the boy absorbed the folklore of the dune country and acquired unknowingly, lasting impressions of insects, birds and animals in their natural state,